



89th Legislative Session Update

Session by the numbers

- Day 113 of 140
- 5,792 bills filed in the House
- 3,106 bills filed in the Senate
- 709 bills tracked by the City
- 142 tracked bills have received a committee hearing
- 34 bills we have registered a position on in committee

Lt. Governor's Priority Items (Highlights)

- **Senate Bill 2 – Providing School Choice**
- Senate Bill 3 – Banning THC in Texas
- **Senate Bill 4 – Increasing the Homestead Exemption to \$140,000 (\$150,000 for seniors)**
- Senate Bill 6 – Increasing Texas' Electric Grid Reliability
- Senate Bill 7 – Increasing Investments in Texas' Water Supply
- Senate Bill 8 – Requiring Local Law Enforcement to Assist the Federal Government's Deportation Efforts
- **Senate Bill 9 – Reforming Bail – Keeping Violent Criminals Off Our Streets**
- Senate Bill 19 – Stopping Taxpayer Dollars for Lobbyists

Speaker's Priority Items (Highlights)

- **House Bill 2 – Public school funding and public school finance**
- **House Bill 3 – Education Savings Account Program**
- **House Bill 9 & HJR 1 – Property tax exemption for tangible personal property**
- **House Bill 16 & HJR 7 – Texas Water Development Board funding**
- **House Bill 19 – Local government debt issuance limitations**
- **House Bill 23 – Third-party review of plats and property development documents**
- **House Bill 24 – Protest procedures for zoning changes**
- **House Bill 28 – Regulation of consumable hemp products**



Community Focus

The City of Denton values strong partnerships with key community organizations—including Denton ISD, Denton County, Denton County Transportation Authority (DCTA), North Central Texas College (NCTC), Texas Woman’s University (TWU), and the University of North Texas (UNT). To advance legislation that addresses shared priorities and enhances the well-being of the entire Denton area, the City supports the following initiatives:

- Expand access to affordable mental health care through legislation and funding.
 - Budget Amendments:
 - \$75,000,000 for the creation of the Denton County State Hospital
 - \$20,000,000 for Community Mental Health Services in Denton County
- Protect the autonomy of local officials to make decisions in the best interest of their communities.
 - Oppose restrictions on cities' ability to contract with registered lobbyists for legislative services. If restrictions are imposed, allow cities to maintain contracts for non-lobbying legislative services, such as bill analysis and tracking.
 - SB 19 – restricts municipal use of registered lobbyists



City Services

- Support legislation mandating that retail pet stores only sell animals acquired from animal control agencies, shelters, or rescue organizations, and require stores to maintain records of the animals' origins.
 - HB 3458 / SB 1652 – ethical pet sales
- Oppose legislation that limits franchise fee authority for solid waste services.
 - HB 1227 – limits franchise fee authority to 2%
- Oppose legislation that restricts libraries' authority to make decisions regarding materials, implements a state-issued rating system for purchases, or prohibits libraries from hosting community events.
 - SB 412 – establishes an affirmative defense to prosecution for librarians providing harmful materials to children



Land Use and Development

- Support legislation that protects and clarifies the City's role in requests for removal from their extraterritorial jurisdictions (ETJ).
 - SB 2522 – prohibits municipal regulation of lot density in the ETJ
- Support legislation that preserves the City's authority to establish lot sizes, parking requirements, density, and accessory dwelling unit (ADU) requirements within city limits.
 - SB 673 – prohibits municipal regulation of ADUs
- Oppose legislation that restricts a city's authority over development issues, including annexation, eminent domain, zoning, regulatory takings, building codes, tree preservation, short-term rentals, and manufactured housing.
 - HB 24 – modifies procedures for proposed changes to zoning regulations, including protests
- Oppose legislation that diminishes the City's authority to manage and control its rights-of-way, including limitations on requiring dedications or studies as part of plat submissions.
 - HB 23 – allows for third party review of plats



Taxation and Financial Strategies

- Support increasing the competitive bidding threshold to reflect rising costs and inflation.
 - SB 1173 / HB 1998 – increases the threshold from \$50,000 to \$100,000
- Oppose legislation limiting a city's ability to issue Certificates of Obligation (COs) and levy necessary fees.
 - HB 19 – limits a city's maximum annual debt to 20% of property tax collection average, requires all debt related elections to be moved to November, modifies acceptable uses of COs



Transportation and Aviation

- Support legislation that invests in the State's multimodal transportation systems and increases funding for growing urban areas.
 - HJR 58 – allows for the state highway fund to be used for transit-oriented projects
 - HB 4906 – allocating a portion of revenue generated from permits for oversize and overweight vehicles to the state highway fund
- Support legislation that provides cities with greater flexibility to fund local transportation projects.
 - SB 1277 – extends the expiration for street maintenance taxes in certain municipalities



Utilities (Water)

- Support legislation that promotes direct potable reuse water, and other water conservation initiatives.
 - SB 7 – creates the Texas Water Fund Advisory Committee, protects freshwater aquifers and preserves local control over surface water rights, expands project eligibility for New Water Supply Fund
 - HJR 7 – allocation of sporting goods sales tax to the Texas Water Fund, up to \$1 billion per year
 - SB 480 – allows municipalities to enter into agreements with other entities to participate in joint research or planning regarding water resources
 - SB 1253 – allows municipalities to leverage credits against impact fees to builders and developers for certain water conservation and reuse projects



Utilities (Electric)

- Support legislation that classifies electric power generation units as critical infrastructure, giving them the same priority protections as entities with priority access to natural gas during emergencies.
 - SB 2434 – reforms an outdated Railroad Commission Rule that discriminates against electrified homeowners during an emergency, mostly winter weather emergencies.
- Oppose any legislation that restricts large load interconnections to the distribution systems of Municipal-Owned Utilities (MOUs).
 - SB 6 – regulates large load interconnections

Important Deadlines

- June 2 – Last day of session (Sine Die)
- June 22 – Governor's veto period ends
- September 1 – Bill effective date